

STATE OF IDAHO
Department of Fish and Game

Joseph C. Greenley, Director

Quarterly Project Progress Report
CLEARWATER RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF
SPRING CHINOOK AND STEELHEAD STOCKS

Project No. 88E25032

Contract No. 03-78-M02-40

Period Covered: April 1 to June 30, 1978

Columbia River Fisheries Development Program

September, 1978

Clearwater River Development of
Spring Chinook and Steelhead Stocks

ABSTRACT

Traps were installed at Indian Creek incubation channel on April 20. Survival of eggs to emergent fry was excellent. The Lochsa River received 115,000 chinook smolts from Mackay Hatchery with 33,600 smolts released into the South Fork Clearwater from the same source.

REPORT OF PROGRESS

Nez Perce Pass was opened by the Forest Service the first week of May. However, the channel tender had installed the traps on April 20 and had trapped and distributed over 100,000 fish prior to the pass being opened.

The total program was a week to ten days earlier this year than last. The migration peaked on May 15, six days earlier than 1977, when about 161,000 fry were enumerated from the trap. The numbers stayed high through the first week of June. Then the count rapidly dropped off with the traps being removed on June 15. An estimated 65,000 fry remained in the channel after trapping ceased.

During the Fall of 1977, Indian Creek incubation channel received 2,740,470 eyed chinook eggs. Approximately 1,523,000 migrating fry were enumerated from the channel for a very successful 56.4 percent emergence.

As last year, I attribute the hatching channel success to having a reliable tender monitoring the channel throughout the critical winter and spring period. West Fork Ranger District personnel observed the channel from June 7 through 14, when the trapping facility was shut down. Their assistance was appreciated.

Fry were released by vehicle to various areas of the upper Selway River drainage. A compilation of these releases is contained in Table 1.

Table 1. Fry Plants for 1978

Date	Where Released	Numbers Released
April 27	At channel	26,480
May 4	Magruder Crossing	28,600
May 4	Beaver Point	28,600
May 4	Paradise	28,600
May 7	Below Cayuse Creek	28,600
May 7	CCC Camp	28,600
May 7	Magruder Ranger Station	28,600
May 11	Magruder Ranger Station	34,000
May 11	Magruder Crossing	34,000
May 12	Paradise	30,600
May 14	Cayuse Creek	42,500

Date	Where Released	Numbers Released
May 14	Hell's Half Acre Bridge	42,500
May 15	At channel	83,600
May 16	White Cap Creek	34,000
May 16	Snake Creek	34,000
May 18	Magruder Ranger Station	34,000
May 18	CCC Camp	34,000
May 20	Beaver Point	34,000
May 20	Magruder Crossing	34,000
May 24	Magruder Crossing	51,000
May 24	Magruder Ranger Station	51,000
May 24	Paradise	34,000
May 31	White Sand Creek Bridge	42,500
May 31	Mouth of Brushy Fork Creek	42,500
May 31	Magruder Crossing	68,000
May 31	Beaver Point	68,000
June 1	Paradise	51,000
June 1	Magruder Ranger Station	68,000
June 3	Paradise	68,000
June 3	Kit Carson	68,000
June 3	CCC Camp	68,000
June 5	At channel	69,700
June 11	At channel	<u>40,000</u>
Grand Total		1,458,980

Unfortunately, with the high number of fry emerging from the channel we were unable to obtain a helicopter for maximum distribution. Due to apparent budget restrictions, the helicopter contract for the Bitterroot National Forest did not start until June 1. This was also a new contract year and pilots were not familiar with the country. Before it would have been possible to orient the pilots, the number of fry would have been reduced to too low a number for planting.

No enumeration of fry is attempted at Crooked River incubation channel. However, it is evident the channel was very successful by observing the number of migrating fry which have saturated the entire creek to the South Fork Clearwater River.

Chinook Smolt Releases

Chinook smolts will no longer be reared at the Sandpoint Hatchery. The smolts formerly reared at Sandpoint for the CRP projects are now being reared at Mackay Hatchery. Mackay smolts were released this spring for the first time into the Lochsa and South Fork Clearwater River drainages. Due to the lack of excess smolts at Rapid River Hatchery none were received from that station in 1978.

A listing of chinook smolt releases is contained in Table 2.

Table 2. Spring Chinook Smolts releases, Clearwater River drainage, 1978

Date	Location	Number Released
April 19	White Sand Creek Bridge	86,400
April 25	White Sand Creek Bridge	<u>28,800</u>
	Lochsa River Total	115,200
April 25	Red River at Ranger Station	<u>33,600</u>
	Grand Total	148,800

Chinook fry from Mullan were released into the upper Lochsa River tributaries on June 7, we released 119,500 near the mouth of Post Office creek and another 119,500 near the mouth of Squaw Creek. The hatchery has an additional 600,000 fry yet to be distributed.

Submitted by:

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Region 2